



# Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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### A GOOD GENERAL SOAKING RAIN NEEDED!

Rainfall totals throughout most of the state last week were below normal, which led to short-to-very short soil moisture supplies in almost forty percent of the farmland. All crops and pastures, however, remain rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition with development advancing well ahead of the normal pace. Crops and pastures would respond nicely to a good rain in the upcoming week. Soybean and cotton planting were underway but some growers indicated they would wait for moisture before continuing to plant. Besides planting, the main farm activities were harvesting hay and fertilizer application.

There were 6 days suitable for fieldwork across the state. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 5 percent very short, 32 percent short, 62 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 4 percent very short, 25 percent short, 69 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus. Temperatures across the state averaged 2 to 6 degrees above normal. Rainfall amounts averaged below normal throughout Tennessee.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2011	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Apples – Blooming or Beyond	97	94	87	90	Apples	3	15	38	42	2
Corn – Planted	93	88	37	62	Corn	0	2	18	67	13
Corn – Emerged	75	61	21	30	Pastures	1	5	28	55	11
Cotton – Planted	6	0	2	4	Winter Wheat	0	3	19	51	27
Hay – 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	23	16	2	2						
Soybeans – Planted	9	3	1	3						
Winter Wheat – Headed	98	93	58	46						

### County Agent Comments

*“The farmers in Fayette County have finished planting corn and held back from planting cotton due to the cold temperatures early in the week. Many started planting beans and some started cotton later in the week. We are in need for a good rain, getting dry!!!!”*

**Jeffery Via, Fayette County**

*“Had a light frost but things are holding pretty good. Dealing with some wheat diseases but crop is beyond treating point.”*

**Walter Battle, Haywood County**

*“Corn planting has been completed this week, with a few producers having started soybean planting. Top dress nitrogen applications are being made in corn. Forage producers have taken advantage of good drying conditions in harvesting their first cutting of hay crops. Windy conditions have pulled remaining topsoil moisture to low levels and have kept prayers parked for most of the week.”*

**Jeff Lannom, Weakley County**

*“We have wheat and pastures drying up and actually dying. Pastures and hay are hurting very bad. Cattle are still O.K. but pastures are getting short and our hay situation is critical”*

**Larry Moorehead, Moore County**

*“Cool weather makes for slow growth/development on young corn plants. The wheat crop has suffered more damage than we originally thought. This past week I have seen wheat heads that appeared to be good but had several kernels which are empty, just a hollow husk. Parts of the county are getting dry; grasses growing on shallower soils are showing signs of water stress in several areas. Rains have been spotty; we need a good, general soaker.”*

**Mitchell Mote, Rutherford County**

*“Continued dry weather has slowed planting progress! It has been three weeks since many areas seen any appreciable rainfall. Cool dry weather is helping on the disease front; however, the (wheat) crop could use some moisture for good grain fill. Some wheat is beginning to show signs of turning color and expect to see wheat ripe by mid to late May. Cool nights and lack of rain has the corn exhibiting the beginning signs of moisture stress. The crop has made little to no growth this week. On droughty soils corn is slow and sporadic in emerging. Corn has failed to come up in some of the drier areas after being planted for three weeks.”*

**Ed Burns, Franklin County**

*“Another week without rain. Some hay harvested, corn is basically planted except for some after spring silage. Many farmers will wait for rain before planting soybeans. Hay looks to be short this year. Really need rain. It’s been over a month!”*

**Dale Beaty, Warren County**

*“A thundershower accompanied with light hail on Thursday brought an average of 1/2 inch of rain. Row crops and forages benefited but are in need of more as field conditions continue to rapidly dry. Soybean planting has stalled in some locations awaiting moisture. First-cutting hay harvest is advancing with some lower than expected yields reported.”*

**John Wilson, Blount County**

*“Thrips and whiteflies are present in 40% of the greenhouse crops.”*

**Anthony Carver, Grainger County**

*“Most of Monroe County received rain on Thursday. Corn planting had stopped due to inadequate ground moisture. Some hay has been harvested and pasture growth has slowed due to dry weather.”*

**Jonathan Rhea, Monroe County**

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION  
For week ending: April 29, 2012 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending April 29, 2012				Current Week 4/29/12	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
West										
Ames_Plantation	85	38	64	-2	0.21	2	13.47	-5.99	2.97	-2.54
Brownsville_TN	87	40	65	1	0.01	1	11.18	-7.99	0.94	-4.27
Covington	86	39	64	1	0.00	0	13.48	-5.71	1.34	-3.99
Dyersburg	90	41	67	3	0.00	0	10.33	-7.18	1.19	-3.34
Huntingdon_Wate	85	37	62	1	0.00	0	10.30	-8.15	1.61	-2.92
Jackson_Exp_Stn	86	38	64	1	0.31	2	12.36	-6.01	1.42	-3.52
Lexington_TN	83	37	61	-2	0.25	2	12.83	-4.98	1.68	-2.78
Martin	85	37	63	2	0.31	4	13.67	-4.61	2.91	-1.96
Memphis_AG	86	41	66	1	0.03	1	12.08	-6.87	1.03	-4.25
Milan	87	38	63	2	0.09	1	11.72	-6.88	1.21	-3.60
Paris	85	37	61	1	0.49	3	11.72	-6.66	2.02	-2.68
Savannah_6SW	85	37	64	-2	0.15	3	15.94	-4.94	2.98	-2.26
Selmer	85	36	64	2	0.04	1	14.52	-6.14	1.73	-3.51
Union_City	87	39	62	1	0.14	2	11.28	-6.71	1.68	-2.96
Middle										
Clarksville_Sew	85	38	63	3	0.09	1	10.51	-7.60	1.13	-3.16
Cookeville	82	36	58	-2	0.47	2	17.18	-2.51	2.05	-2.44
Crossville_AP	79	37	58	-1	0.62	4	16.09	-3.75	1.58	-3.06
Dickson_AG	83	35	63	1	0.00	0	13.20	-5.84	1.40	-3.46
Dover_1W	82	38	62	1	0.43	2	13.13	-5.69	2.44	-2.31
Fayetteville_TN	85	35	65	5	0.00	0	16.93	-3.01	1.94	-2.55
Jamestown	81	36	56	-4	1.33	3	17.85	-0.44	2.13	-2.17
Kingston_Spring	84	37	60	1	0.02	1	12.90	-5.58	1.95	-2.40
Lewisburg	85	28	58	-3	0.00	0	11.84	-7.40	1.15	-3.35
Livingston_WLIV	82	37	57	-4	0.33	3	17.28	-0.58	1.03	-3.16
Lobelville	84	34	60	-2	0.00	0	12.25	-7.61	1.59	-3.11
Murfreesboro_5N	82	35	59	-3	0.01	1	13.32	-4.94	1.09	-3.23
Nashville_Metro	84	41	63	2	0.44	2	13.91	-2.70	2.86	-1.36
Oneida	82	36	57	0	1.34	3	19.24	0.90	2.34	-1.98
Portland_TN	83	38	59	-2	0.33	5	13.19	-4.47	1.51	-2.69
Pulaski_Water_P	81	35	61	-4	0.00	0	14.26	-5.61	3.03	-1.27
Shelbyville	86	37	64	2	0.02	2	14.72	-4.75	0.80	-3.62
Sparta_TN	84	37	60	-1	0.04	2	13.67	-5.48	0.69	-3.74
Springfield	82	38	59	-1	1.46	3	14.51	-2.68	2.82	-1.34
Springhill	83	32	60	-1	0.18	2	13.35	-6.35	2.26	-2.65
Tullahoma	84	36	63	1	0.00	0	13.90	-6.96	0.53	-4.19
Waynesboro_TN	84	33	60	-1	0.03	1	14.39	-6.73	2.55	-2.61
East										
Chattanooga/Lov	83	41	64	3	0.00	0	15.42	-4.62	1.09	-3.05
Cleveland_6NNE	82	39	62	2	0.45	3	13.88	-6.06	0.94	-3.27
Dayton	82	40	60	-3	0.12	3	15.38	-5.20	1.05	-3.33
Erwin_1W	79	37	56	-1	1.66	4	15.49	-0.03	4.79	0.92
Gatlinburg_2SW	84	36	58	1	1.16	5	22.15	3.88	5.21	1.03
Greeneville	81	35	56	-3	1.15	4	15.98	1.89	4.86	1.58
Kingston_AG	83	39	60	0	0.47	2	17.63	-2.95	2.65	-1.68
Knoxville_AP	83	38	61	1	0.66	3	19.43	2.39	3.64	0.06
Newcomb	82	38	56	0	0.88	3	19.32	0.98	2.86	-1.46
Norris_4NE	83	35	58	-2	1.06	4	20.78	2.64	4.27	0.18
Tri-City_RGNL_A	80	35	57	-2	0.85	4	14.56	0.89	3.83	0.64

DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) measured in inches.

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